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The Secretary read the following letter from Mr. G. W. Hayward :—

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ Murree, Punjab, September 11, 1869.

“ I have the pleasure to forward to your address the accompanying maps and reports of Eastern Turkistan, from where I have lately arrived.

“ The papers are far from being so complete as I could wish them, since of necessity they have been made out somewhat hurriedly, as opportunity offered at various times, for the most part during my stay at Yarkand and Kashgar.

“ The accompanying map is on a scale of 16 miles to 1 inch, and a larger map on a scale of 8 miles to the inch is in course of construction.

“ No attempt, as you will observe, has been made to fill in the details of country situated at any distance from the line of route which has not been personally explored and surveyed. The map has, therefore, a somewhat incomplete appearance, but at the risk of its being thought so, I wish to be able to maintain its general accuracy, in preference to filling in uncertain details of country, which might be found incorrect by future explorers.

“ The instruments used during the exploration are those which were supplied to me by the Society. The mountain part of the work may be considered to be the most reliable, as here I was able to use instruments as I wished. After entering the plain country, however, I could not survey openly as before, for I need hardly say that amongst such a suspicious race as the inhabitants of Eastern Turkistan, the open and repeated use of scientific instruments would have been highly dangerous, if not fatal to the success of the enterprise. Here I depended greatly on observations for latitude, and the distances and bearings of the different points and places.

“ All observations of the sun's meridian altitude at Yarkand and Kashgar, &c., have been recorded in a table accompanying this paper, with the view that the data furnished may be *accurately computed* for the latitude of these places. This is a subject of so much interest, that I may be excused if I request that no values of the positions of these cities be published until the data have been worked out by Captain George, or other competent person deputed by the Society's Secretary.

“ The heights above sea-level have all been calculated from Casella's Tables for hypsometric measurement. They are subject to correction, for which purpose the boiling-point of water at the different places of observation has been given in a list attached to the Meteorological Observations sent herewith, to which is added a list of the towns and villages visited or noticed in Eastern Turkistan, the main routes from Ladak, &c., and a sketch plan of the forts of Yarkand and Kashgar.

“ I would draw especial attention to the new trade-route discovered during my exploration of the Karakash River. This line of communication is from Chang Chenmo, *viâ* the upper valley of the Karakash and Aktagh, the valley of the Yarkand River, and across the Kuen Luen Range by the Yangi Pass, to Yarkand. The natural advantages are great, and the road perfectly practicable for laden horses and camels, and might be made so for two-wheeled carts and conveyances, as well as for the passage of guns.

“ I must not fail to make favourable mention of the small artificial horizon, the invention of Captain George, supplied to me by the Society. I have found this little instrument to be invaluable. It has been objected to as being, perhaps, somewhat too small; but apart from the inconvenience of carrying an average sized apparatus amongst peaks and glaciers, it must be remembered that to carry an ordinary sized artificial horizon attached to the waist-belt without attracting attention is impossible, whereas this little instrument can be carried ready for use, and, in case of interruption when taking an observation, the cover

can at once be screwed on, and the instrument placed in the pocket or belt, which would be impracticable with an ordinary sized horizon.

"I must beg of you to be good enough to make my excuses to the Council of the Society for any delay in hearing from me ere this. Had I even had the opportunity of transmitting papers or news from Turkistan it would have been most impolitic to have made the attempt, for in the eyes of the natives correspondence is conspiracy.

"I have been much disappointed in not being able to effect my original intention of returning to India from Yarkand *via* the Pamir and Chitral. I found every effort to get away in that direction quite useless, and no alternative remained but to retrace my steps to Ladak, and essay some other route.

"I am now about starting to explore the Pamir Steppe and the sources of the Oxus, by the way of Gilgit and the head of the Chitral Valley; and if successful, I venture to hope that on return to England I may be enabled to add to the work already done, and complete a very fair map of this part of Central Asia.

"Although I can hardly expect the Council of the Society to fully appreciate the dangers and difficulties which a European must have to contend with when entering such countries, with the exception of those who may know perhaps from personal experience what the Central Asiatics are, yet I feel sure they will do me the justice to believe that I have undertaken this exploration with a thorough liking for the work in hand, and a determination to do my best; and though it must necessarily be many months ere they can hear of me again, they will rest satisfied that I am still endeavouring to do good work in so interesting a field as the *terra incognita* of Central Asia.

"GEORGE W. HAYWARD.

"TO SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B.,
President of the Royal Geographical Society, London."

The following paper was then read :—

Journey from Leh to Yarkand and Kashgar, and Exploration of the Sources of the Yarkand River. By G. W. HAYWARD.

[EXTRACTS.]

I ARRIVED at Leh, the capital of Ladak, on the 21st of September, 1868, having left Murree in the Punjab on the 26th of August.

From Leh to Yarkand there are three routes open to the traveller to choose. The first is the Zamistānee, or winter route, which from Leh crosses the Digur Lá Pass, and ascends the valley of the Shayok River to near the Karakoram Range. The second, the Tabistānee, or summer route from Leh, crosses the Kardong Pass, 17,574 feet above the sea, and the Shayok River at Suttee; from whence, ascending the Nubra Valley, it crosses Karowal Pass, and then the difficult Pass of Sasser, 17,972 feet above the sea, joining the former route at Moorghoo.

The third route from Leh is *via* Chang Chenmo and the Chang Lang Pass, 18,839 feet above the sea; and crosses the series of high plains lying between Chang Chenmo and the Kuen Luen